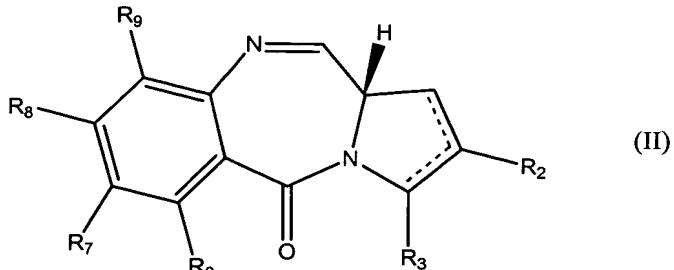


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in this application.

1. to 16. Canceled.

17. (Currently amended.) A compound of formula II:



wherein R₂ and R₃ are independently selected from: H, R, OH, OR, =O, =CH-R, =CH₂, CH₂-CO₂R, CH₂-CO₂H, CH₂-SO₂R, O-SO₂R, CO₂R, COR and CN, and there is optionally a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;

R₆, R₇, R₈ and R₉ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, nitro, amino, Me₃Sn; or R₇ and R₈ together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2; where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups, and optionally contains one or more hetero atoms, which may form part of, or be, a functional group; except that either:

(i) one or more of R₆, R₇, and R₈ are independently X-Y-A-, where X is selected from -COZ', NHZ, SH, or OH, where Z is either H or a nitrogen protecting group, Z' is either OH or an acid protecting group, Y is a divalent group such that HY = R, and A is O; or

(ii) one or more of R₂, R₃, R₆, R₇, and R₈ are independently H-(T)_n-X'-Y-A
where X' is CO, NH, S or O; Y is a divalent group such that HY = R; A is O, S, NH or a single bond, T is a combinatorial unit, and n is a positive integer.

18. (Previously presented.) A method of treating gene-based diseases, neoplastic diseases, Alzheimer's disease, bacterial infections, parasitic infections or viral infections comprising administering a compound of formula II as defined in claim 17.
19. (Original.) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound of formula II as defined in claim 17, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
20. to 26. Canceled.